RESPONSE

The Applicant has filed the present Response in reply to the outstanding Official Action of June 4, 2004, and the Applicant respectfully submits that the Response is fully responsive to the Official Action for reasons set forth below in detail.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 7-8 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as allegedly unpatentable over Takita, *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,151,005) (hereinafter "Takita") in view of Komo (U.S. Patent 6,490,013) (hereinafter "Komo") and Hashimoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,151,005) (hereinafter Hashimoto). Both Takita and Komo were used in the Examiner's prior rejection. The Examiner cited an additional reference because he found the previous response persuasive. This additional reference does not remove all of the deficiencies that the Applicant identified previously regarding Takita and Komo.

The present rejection is similar to the Examiner's prior rejection except that the Examiner states that Hashimoto teaches a microprocessor for outputting a switching signal to the selector. The Examiner further contends that Hashimoto teaches changeover switches that respond to a changeover switching signal which is outputted from a microprocessor to the switches. One allegedly would be motivated to add the microprocessor to Takita and Komo because of the suggestion in Hashimoto that the microprocessor is equivalent and performs identical function as the desired microprocessor.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's rejection and traverses with at least the following analysis.

Claim 7 is directed to a liquid crystal display comprising, inter alia, a liquid crystal display controller with an inverter for inverting a digital image input signal and a selector for choosing and outputting a signal inverted by said inverter and said digital image input signal depending on a switching signal, a liquid crystal driver for transmitting the digital image input signal data-processed to the liquid crystal panel using electric power supplied by the gradiation power source, and a micro processor or a dual in-line package switch outputting a switching signal for inputting the switching signal to the selector depending on the liquid crystal panel.

The hypothetically combined Takita-Komo-Hashimoto system fails to teach (a) a selector for choosing and outputting a signal inverted by said inverter and said digital image input signal depending on a switching signal, and (b) a microprocessor or a dual in-line package switch outputting a switching signal for inputting the switching signal to the selector ***depending on the liquid crystal panel.***

Applicant submits that Komo fails to teach a selector for choosing the signal. The Examiner stated that Komo teaches a multiplexer for alternatively selecting a non-inverted signal and an inverted signal based on an inversion control signal. A multiplexer is not the inverter-selector configuration as the claim specifically recites. The Examiner contended that one would have been motivated to substitute the claimed inverter-selector configuration from the disclosed multiplexer of Komo since they are functionally equivalent and Komo suggests this equivalent nature.

In order to rely on equivalents as a rationale supporting an obviousness rejection, the equivalency must be recognized in the prior art, and cannot be based on the applicant's disclosure or the mere fact that the components at issue are functional or

mechanical equivalents. In re Scott, 139 U.S.P.Q. 297 (CCPA 1963). See also MPEP 2144.06.

The Examiner's sole basis for the equivalents contention is the contention that the structures are functionally equivalent when used in the claimed manner. This equivalence, however, was not known and therefore the rejection is based on hindsight. This contention is not enough to maintain a case of obviousness. Furthermore, they are structurally different.

The Examiner also failed to establish that the hypothetically combined system has a microprocessor or a dual in-line package switch outputting a switching signal for inputting the switching signal to the selector depending on the liquid crystal panel.

While Hashimoto teaches a switching signal that is outputted from a microprocessor, the reference fails to teach that the switching signal is related to the liquid crystal display type.

At column 3, the reference teaches that adjustment items include brightness, contrast, horizontal size, horizontal position, vertical size, vertical position, side-pincushion distortion, trapezoidal distortion, horizontal convergence, vertical convergence, tilt, horizontal moiré, color temperature level, reference levels for red, green and blue.....etc. 31-37. These characteristics are standard variables for displaying an image of a screen. This list does not include, nor does the reference suggest using an inverted verses a non-inverted signal depending on the liquid crystal display panel.

Moreover, the Examiner has failed to provide proper motivation for combining the reference. Hoshimoto does not suggest that the microprocessor is equivalent and

performs the identical function as the desired microprocessor. The Examiner is using the applicants disclosure to find motivation which is hindsight. The fact that the microprocessor performs the desired result does not mean that there is any proper motivation to combine the references.

In view of the above, we believe that Takita in view of Komo and in further view of Hashimoto does not teach or suggest the invention as claimed in Claim 7. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 7 is patentably distinct from the cited references.

The Examiner also rejected Claim 8 as being unpatentable over Takita in view of Komo and in further view of Hashimoto and Takahara et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,196,738 (hereinafter "Takahara").

The Examiner asserted that Takahara teaches a plurality of power source voltage terminals which have different potential levels, and an output terminal for providing a voltage to a display panel according to the voltages applied through the voltage terminals. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to further modify Takita's LCD system to included Takahara's plurality of power source terminals.

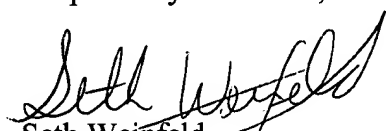
We respectfully disagree with the Examiner's rejection and traverse this rejection based upon the above-identified analysis and for at least the following additional reason. Claim 8 recites, inter alia, a LCD panel further comprising plural gradation power sources which are ***prepared corresponding to types*** of liquid crystal panels, and ***are selected depending*** on the liquid crystal panels to be used. Applicant maintains its opinion from our prior response that Takahara fails to teach or suggest the relationship between the plural gradation power sources and the LCD panels to be used. Takahara

solely teaches using different potential voltages Therefore, the combined prior art references fail to teach each and every claim limitation or render the limitations obvious.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of Claims 7-8.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant believes that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance and henceforth respectfully solicits the allowance of the application. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference might expedite the allowance of this application, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner call the undersigned, Applicant's attorney, at the following telephone number: (516) 742-4343.

Respectfully submitted,



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